

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right, and it's outrageous to think that any American company would take away your money and your job simply because you want to be free from oppression. And yet game publisher Blizzard did exactly that after Hong Kong-based pro gamer blitzchung advocated for his own political freedom during a livestream.

Game publishers and developers certainly have a right to moderate the content that appears on their platforms. And in many cases, moderation is essential to ensure that gamers are safe from harassment, threats of violence, and other dangerous behavior. But silencing gamers from speaking about their identities and experiences puts us all at risk of personal attacks and widespread oppression.

Digital rights group Fight for the Future has released a new website, gamersforfreedom.com, to organize digital and physical protests that will let Blizzard know we won't be silenced. And we're calling on all game companies to support free expression in their games and on their platforms.

Heres' how you can get involved ...

PROTEST ONLINE

The most important thing you can do is to channel your outrage into specific actions that will draw positive attention to this important cause.

1. **SIGN THE PETITION**

 Sign our petition now and join more than 6,000 other gamers in urging game companies to support free expression: https://www.gamersforfreedom.com/#petition-form

Once you've signed the petition, encourage people you know to sign the petition, too.

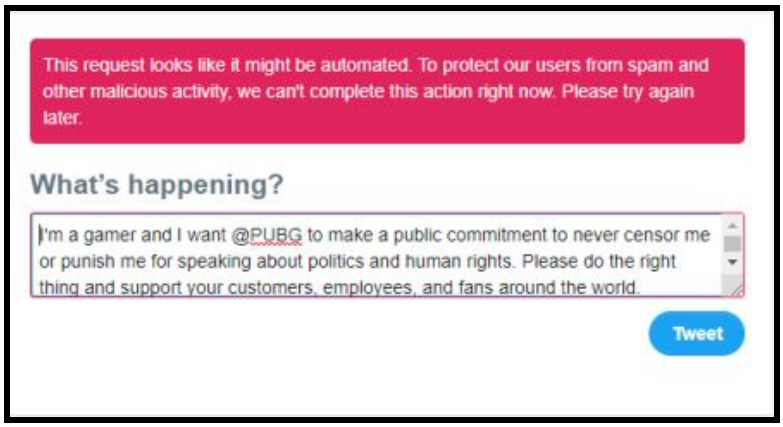
2. TWEET AT GAME COMPANIES

Keep public pressure on game developers and publishers by tweeting directly at them. Our scorecard shows which companies support free expression and which companies may censor you for speaking your mind: https://www.gamersforfreedom.com/#scorecard

Clicking on the Twitter CTA next to a game company's name will pop up a Twitter module with suggested copy for you to tweet:

"I'm a gamer and I want @[game company] to make a public commitment to never censor me or punish me for speaking about politics and human rights. Please do the right thing and support your customers, employees, and fans around the world. GamersForFreedom.com"

Some protesters have reported seeing an error message from Twitter when attempting to tweet. If this happens to you, consider customizing your message, or tweeting again at a later time. But don't get discouraged and don't give up.



If you don't have a Twitter account, or if you are concerned about using your current Twitter account due to privacy issues, feel free to create a temporary Twitter account. If you are able, tweet each game company every day. Use hashtags like #BoycottBlizzard and #GamersForFreedom to increase visibility.

3. DONATE TO THE CAUSE

We'll need to pay for protest signs, website maintenance, and other organizing costs. Every dollar counts, so please consider donating to help this important cause by visiting our official donation page: https://www.gamersforfreedom.com/donate/

4. **SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

 This protest is all about free expression, so we encourage you to express yourself on social media. Make memes. Create fan art. Tell people why it's so important for you to be able to share your voice in games … personal stories help other people understand that this issue has a serious impact IRL.





 If you're looking for inspiration, we've created a folder of images and memes you can use: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KN9m_4JVaH85rHGTE-6-SBi5eznYvstX

 And if you'd like to quote Fight for the Future's official stance on these protest actions in a school newspaper, blog post, or other informative article, please refer to our most recent press release: https://www.fightforthefuture.org/news/2019-10-15-major-protests-planned-at-blizzcon-grow-even/

5. **JOIN OUR DISCORD**

 Join our Gamers for Freedom Discord at https://discordapp.com/invite/czkKvMS to chat and collaborate with other gamers around the world who are fighting to convince game developers and publishers to protect our freedom.

This movement has attracted many different people with many different political viewpoints who are all united in our desire for free expression in the games we play and love. We encourage you to be polite and respectful in all your communications. Remember that we are fighting to create a positive change in the world, so stay positive and focus on the values that unite us all!

PROTEST AT BLIZZCON



BlizzCon 2019 will be held from November 1st through November 3rd, and Fight for the Future is organizing an in-person protest called BlizzCon Uncensored.

WHAT: BlizzCon Uncensored is a peaceful protest advocating for free expression in games

WHERE: Outside the entrance to the Anaheim Convention Center
800 W Katella Ave
Anaheim, CA 92802

WHEN: Friday, November 1st: the first day of BlizzCon

No ticket is necessary. No purchase required. We encourage all gamers who are passionate about their free expression to join us outside of BlizzCon.

Interested? RSVP here: https://www.facebook.com/events/402379580661468/. Or, if you don't have Facebook, you can also RSVP at EventBrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/76682193505/. Either way, make sure you let us know you are planning to attend so that we can keep you informed of all the latest information.

Here are some creative ways to participate:

1. **HOLD A SIGN**

 Fight for the Future will bring signs, but feel free to create your own sign. A sign doesn't need to be fancey; just write your thoughts on a piece of paper or cardboard so people know why free expression is important to you.



2. **COSPLAY**

 Redditor u/Zephronica has gone viral with her cosplay of Overwatch character Mei supporting Hong Kong Protesters. Cosplaying as Blizzard characters is a powerful way to let Blizzard know that their most dedicated fans oppose unfair censorship.



Of course, feel free to cosplay as any character you want; it's a great way to show other gamers that we are all united around this important issue.

3. WEAR A GAS MASK

During the livestream of the Taiwan *Hearthstone* Grandmasters, blitzchung wore a gas mask to show his solidarity with Hong Kong protesters. You can show your solidarity with blitzchung by wearing a gas mask to the protest.



Note that while wearing a mask in public is 100% legal, wearing a mask in order to evade the police is illegal. So please ensure that you are following all applicable

California laws and regulations, especially if you choose to wear a mask during the protest.

4. **BRING AN UMBRELLA**

 Protesters in Hong Kong have been using umbrellas as a symbol of protest since 2014. Bring an umbrella to BlizzCon Uncensored to show your support of free speech in Anaheim, in Hong Kong, and anywhere video games are played.

5. **WEAR A PROTEST SHIRT**

 Some protesters have begun printing their own protest t-shirts. You can make your own, or purchase a t-shirt from someone who is pitching in to help the cause.

We are legally allowed to organize on sidewalks and on public property so long as we do not prevent other people from moving freely. We are currently planning on congregating outside the main entrance of the Anaheim Convention Center for maximum visibility among BlizzCon attendees. We will share specific details of our protest location when they are available.

The Anaheim Police Department has assured us in writing that no permit is required for our protest. They have also confirmed our ability to use audio equipment to amplify sound between the hours of 7:00am and 10:00pm, so long as our equipment does not block the path of the sidewalks.

Fight for the Future will have someone is on the ground outside the Anaheim Convention Center to help ensure that the protest is organized safely. We have consulted with the ACLU about our rights to organize, and we encourage all protesters to visit the ACLU's website to ensure that you know your rights as a protester.

If you haven't attended a political protest before, don't worry. Exercising your rights is perfectly legal and surprisingly fun. We'll chant. We'll take pictures. We'll make new friends. And most importantly, we'll speak out against Blizzard's unfair censorship and share our message with everyone willing to listen.

We expect that all protesters joining us will respect local laws and be courteous to other protesters as well as BlizzCon attendees.